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INTERNATIONAL PRISON CONGRESS.

International Prison Congress, which meets in Washington at the same time. Judge W. H. De Lacy of the Washington Juvenile Court is chairman of the local committee on reception which will provide for the entertainment of delegates. On Saturday evening at seven o'clock there will be a dinner at the New Willard. The work of the Institute during the past year has been carried on mainly through committees appointed at the Chicago meeting in June of last year and has consisted principally of the preparation of reports on topics selected by the Institute for special investigation. Bulletin No. 1, containing a program of the work outlined for the year, was published in the May number of the JOURNAL. Bulletin No. 2, being a report of a committee to prepare a system for recording data concerning criminals, was published in the July number, and the reports of the committees on translations of European treatises on criminology, on criminal statistics and on probation, parole, pardon and indeterminate sentences are published in this number. Reports of committees on drugs and intoxicants, on organization of courts, and on criminal procedure are yet to be published. It is expected that these reports will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Institute and the program for another year's work mapped out. Dean Lawson and Professor Keedy, who have been in England for some time making a study of English methods of criminal procedure, are expected to report the results of their investigations at the same time. Meanwhile the JOURNAL has been established so that the Institute now has an organ through which its cause may be promoted and the public reached.

J. W. G.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRISON CONGRESS.

The meeting of the International Prison Congress in Washington in October will bring together for the first time in America representatives of the different professions which come in contact with criminals and with the administration of the penal code, lawyers, legislators, administrators of institutions, educators and leaders of preventive and constructive philanthropy. The criminal law is tested under the hands of prison managers and those who follow the life of offenders and who study the very beginnings of crime in children and youth. A discussion carried on by such men cannot fail to be fruitful in thought and practice.

The journey of inspection and the discussion preceding the Congress will afford an admirable opportunity for intimate conversation and the exchange of views between the representatives of different

nations, races and systems. This will also give an opportunity for explanation in answer to questions. It is always unfortunate for people to discuss methods and institutions without first having a chance to correct their errors by asking questions of men who know.

Even the methods of the Congress will tend to improve future conferences in some points. Too generally the speakers in our American conferences are obliged to debate reports and papers which never came to their notice before the meeting. It is impossible to give a conclusive and satisfactory discussion to papers which one has never seen. This Congress publishes all its papers before it meets so that those who come together can be prepared with a deliberate statement and have time to look up their facts.

The problems are, all of them, American, but they are also so stated that they are of interest to men of all nations, China and Japan as well as Belgium, Austria and the South American republics. Certainly no better opportunity has ever been given in our country of stimulating intelligent interest in the problems of criminality. In the July number of the JOURNAL we published the program of the forthcoming Congress.

C. R. H.

THE BILL TO REFORM THE PROCEDURE OF THE FEDERAL COURTS.

In the May number of the JOURNAL we commented upon the bill before Congress at the recent session to provide certain reforms in the procedure of the Federal courts. The passage of the bill was ably advocated by a committee of the American Bar Association, which had unanimously indorsed the bill at its last annual meeting and it was strongly supported by President Taft. The bill was favorably reported by the sub-committee of the judiciary committee, to which it was referred, but the report was made so late in the session that no opportunity was afforded for considering it. We are informed by the chairman of the sub-committee, however, that the bill will be taken up early in the next session and that the prospects for favorable action are encouraging. At a meeting held in New York on June 1 of the special committee of the American Bar Association to suggest remedies and formulate proposed laws, to prevent delay and unnecessary cost in litigation, and the committee on uniform legislation of the National Civic Federation, a plan of coöperative effort to promote the passage of this legislation was agreed upon and it is to be hoped that Congress may be induced to act favorably and thus set an example for the states to follow, as it has done in various other fields of legislation.

J. W. G.